

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 SAM-01 /065 W

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R 031940Z JUL 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2563

INFO FEDERAL PREPAREDNESS AGENCY, GSA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3583

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, US, NATO

SUBJECT: CEP: PORTUGUESE SENIOR CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
(SCEPC) REP'S VIEWS

REF: USNATO 3499

1. COL. A. MAGALHAES, PORTUGUESE REP TO SCEPC PLENARY, INFORMED U.S. DELOFF THAT HE JOINED AFM BEFORE APRIL 1974 COUP WHILE HE SERVING IN ANGOLA. HE CLAIMS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE RIBEIRO AND SAYS HE IS PRIVY TO ACTIVITIES OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. COL. MAGALHAES SAID HE CURRENTLY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ESTABLISHING A TOTALLY NEW CIVIL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS BODY FOR PORTUGAL SINCE, HE SAID, THE PREVIOUS ORGANIZATION HAD BEEN TOTALLY INFESTED WITH FORMER REGIME'S SECRET POLICE. DURING SCEPC REPS' VISIT TO HOLLAND, COL. MAGALHAES EXPRESSED INTEREST IN OBTAINING UNCLASSIFIED MATERIALS (ORGANIZATION CHARTS, FUNCTIONAL STATEMENT, LEGAL AUTHORITIES, ETC.) WHICH COULD HELP HIM IN ESTABLISHING A NEW ORGANIZATION. HE WAS ASSURED BY US DELOFF HE WOULD BE PROVIDED WITH INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT BE HELPFUL.

2. COL. MAGALHAES, IN LONG POST-MIDNIGHT CONVERSATION WITH US CONFIDENTIAL

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DELOFF, RATHER NAIVELY SAID HE IS SINCERE MARXIST WHO WISHES TO SEE "SOCIALISM OF THE BRITISH OR DUTCH MODEL ESTABLISHED IN PRUTUGAL." COL. MAGALHAES INSISTED THAT AFM'S MARXIST ATTITUDE WOULD NOT LEAD TO COMMUNISM AND

THAT SOVIET/EAST EUROPEAN COMMUNISM IS ANATHEMA TO PORTUGUESE. WHILE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY IS ACTIVE, IT, IN EFFECT, IS BEING USED BY THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL TO MANAGE PUBLIC MASSES IN EFFORT TO INFLUENCE PEOPLE TOWARD SOCIALIST VIEWS AND AWAY FROM PREVIOUS RIGHTINT PHILOSOPHY.

3. COL. MAGALHAES, DURING THE COURSE OF ANOTHER CON-
VERSATION, TRIED TO MAKE A CASE FOR MORE US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. HE SAID THAT WITHIN THREE MONTHS, PORTUGUESE FINANCIAL RESERVES WOULD BE EXHAUSTED. IF ASSISTANCE DID NOT COME FROM THE US, PERHAPS THEY WOULD HAVE TO TURN TO OTHERS.

THIS WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT, HE SAID, TO GET OFF THE BACKOF THE TIGER AFM WAS RIDING.

4. COMMENT: AMERICAN AND BRITISH PARTICIPANTS IN CON-
VERSATIONS WERE LEFT WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT COL. MAGALHAES IS VERY NAIVE. HE WAS MUCH IMPRESSED WITH THE VISIT TO NETHERLANDS, AND APPARENTLY HAD NOT TRAVELLED WIDELY ON CONTINENT. HE WAS EXTREMELY ANXIOUS, HOWEVER, TO RECEIVE WHATEVER INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION THE US COULD PROVIDE ON CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING, AND WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD MEET HIS REQUEST FOR UNCLASSIFIED MATERIALS. AS FOR OUR IMPRESSIONS OF MAGALHAES, WE PASS THEM ALONG AS OF POSSIBLE VALUE TO EMBASSY LISBON AND WASHINGTON. END COMMENT. BRUCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO03583
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197507102/abbrzkvu.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USNATO 3499
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <24 SEP 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CEP: PORTUGUESE SENIOR CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (SCEPC) REP'S VIEWS
TAGS: MARR, US, NATO
To: STATE INFO FEDERAL PREPAREDNESS AGENCY, GSA
LISBON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006